# Research Integrity Statement

## Maintaining the Highest Standards of Research Integrity

### Commitment 1
We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.

Heriot-Watt University recognises that research must be conducted according to the highest standards of rigour and integrity. The core elements of research integrity are:
- honesty
- rigour
- transparency and open communication
- care and respect.

We apply these to all aspects of research including the:
- preparation and submission of grant and project proposals
- publication and dissemination of findings
- provision of peer reviews on the proposals or publication of others.

### Commitment 2
We are committed to ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.

Heriot-Watt University recognises that research is governed by a range of ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards which vary over time.

## Embedding a Culture of Research Integrity

### Commitment 3
We are committed to supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers.

Heriot-Watt University aims to maintain a culture that nurtures good practice.

We provide:
- clear policies and procedures to support researchers
- suitable learning and training opportunities to support the development of researchers
- robust management systems to ensure that policies relating to research, research integrity and research behaviour are implemented
researchers with information concerning the standards and behaviours we expect of them
systems within the research environment that identify potential concerns at an early stage and mechanisms for providing support to researchers in need of assistance.

DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Commitment 4  We are committed to using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise.

Heriot-Watt University recognises that research misconduct can:
- cause harm to participants, the public and the environment
- damage the credibility of research
- undermine our research record
- waste resources.

Research misconduct is characterised as behaviour or actions that fall short of the standards of ethics, research and scholarship required to ensure that the integrity of research is upheld.

We also recognise that academic freedom is fundamental to the production of excellent research and that honest errors and differences in research methodology and interpretations are not examples of research misconduct.

A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Commitment 5  We are committed to working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

Heriot-Watt University is committed to the ongoing development of a culture that supports and nurtures research integrity, and mechanisms that provide assurances and, when things go wrong, ensure appropriate investigation and action are forthcoming.

The University Committee for Research and Innovation will provide an annual statement to the University Senate that provides:
- a summary of actions and activities that we have undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues
- assurances that our processes for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair
- a statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have taken place.